

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Ace Clearwater Enterprises

#### California Manufacturing Technology Consulting

#### Ace Clearwater Enterprises Invests In California Economy

##### Client Profile:

Ace Clearwater Enterprises has been building complex formed and welded assemblies for the aerospace industry since 1941. Operating from three facilities comprising 225,000 square feet of manufacturing space in Torrance, California, the company has an agile, experienced, and skilled workforce of 175 people (65 percent of whom are of diverse ethnicity) to meet ever-growing customer demand. The company's \$16 million in annual sales come from the major aerospace manufacturers in California and across the country.

##### Situation:

Ace Clearwater Enterprises (Ace) had an opportunity to take over Honeywell's press (hydro-form and hammer) and support operations, but did not have the capacity to accommodate this new equipment in its existing facility. The company's senior management began considering a move, and called in the experts at the California Manufacturing Technology Center (CMTC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

##### Solution:

CMTC mapped and analyzed Ace's current plant layout to determine existing and future space and utilities requirements. The results of this analysis confirmed Ace management's initial instincts--more space would have to be acquired to accommodate the new equipment and support operations. CMTC developed and mapped new plant layout options to improve space utilization. Ace managers reviewed CMTC's plant layout options and recommendations. After they chose the best option, CMTC presented a final layout drawing to management and provided square footage estimates for Ace's anticipated growth. Using CMTC's estimates and recommendations, Ace found a building in Carson, California that would meet its requirements. CMTC managed the overall relocation project by coordinating activities among many constituents, including Ace Clearwater, Honeywell, the architect, the City planning commission, regulatory agencies, machinery movers, Southern California Edison, and third-party contractors. Now settled into the new facility, Ace Clearwater Enterprises has seen a significant increase in efficiency, cost containment, and sales volume.

##### Results:

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Reduced inventory to increase space and improve flow.  
Kept the plant in California and retained all existing jobs.  
Created an estimated 12 to 15 new jobs.  
Improved space utilization.  
Increased competitiveness by 50 percent.  
Increased sales by an estimated \$5.2 million through the addition of new customers.  
Invested more than \$2 million in the new plant, machines, and manufacturing processes.  
Realizing a return-on-investment of 5:1 for this project.

**Testimonial:**

“The California Manufacturing Technology Center’s level of expertise and knowledge [of] facility layout and relocation helped us reduce costs, increase sales, save jobs, and move into the new facility.”

Gary Johnson, Vice President of Operations